

Re. 05-235

We seem to have become a society desiring instant gratification. When I was studying for my novice license in 1958 my Dad worked with me almost every night learning the Morse code. It wasn't easy and it took time and effort, but when I passed the 5 wpm code test I felt great satisfaction. I had accomplished something that only a small percentage of the population could claim. Passing the 13 wpm general class code requirement in 1959 didn't provide the same degree of accomplishment. I realized the true accomplishment had been learning a new language and demonstrating I had successfully done so by passing the 5 wpm test. After being off the air for 37 years I was re-licensed as a general and then extra class licensee in 2004. I was amazed that it only took several weeks of brushing up on the Morse code to be able to again pass the 5 wpm code test. Since being re-licensed I work almost exclusively CW and am proud to say that I have over 1500 CW contacts.

I feel that the Morse code requirement has never been an insurmountable obstacle for entry into the ranks of amateur radio operators. There is never any pride associated with getting something for nothing. Pride only manifests itself after expending time and energy to accomplish a goal. I will say with a reasonable level of certainty that the many thousands of amateur radio operators around the world who have passed the Morse code requirement will be proud of that accomplishment for the rest of their lives.

If we have no incentive then we stop learning and accomplishing new goals. I therefore humbly request that the 5 wpm, Morse code requirement be maintained for the extra class license. This compromise appears to address many of the issues claimed by both sides.

Thank you for your time and consideration of my proposal.

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